

TALKING PAPER  
ON  
FALL PROTECTION

- From 2011 through 2015 there were five Class A mishaps attributed to falls
  - Three of the five were fatalities
  - A total of 5,375 falls were reported
    - These falls accounted for 24,290 days of lost work cases
    - The costs for these falls totaled \$24,998,480.00 – almost \$25 million!
    - That \$25 million equals \$13,697 per day and could pay the base salary of 129 Staff Sergeants for a month
- Falls from any level and height can cause serious injuries, even death
  - Falls that result in “minor” injuries can lead to a lifetime of aches and pains – a constant reminder no one wants to live with
  - A fatal fall impacts the entire work center, Air Force and loved ones forever – always take the time to work safely and in accordance to requirements
  - An employee was riding on a lowered tailgate of a half-ton pickup truck and fell off, was injured and later died of complications relating to the fall
- Falls can be prevented with three steps:
  - Plan ahead to get the job done safely
  - Provide and use the right equipment for the task
  - Train all workers how to use the equipment safely
- An application (App) called *Harness Hero* is available for use to increase awareness
- Fall Protection Tips
  - Look for and identify all potential trips & fall hazards before starting work

- Look for unprotected floor openings, edges, shafts, skylights, stairwells and roof openings
- Inspect all fall protection equipment for defects before use
- Select, wear and use the right fall protection equipment for the job
- Secure and stabilize all ladders before climbing on them
- Never stand on the top rung/step of a ladder
- Use handrails going up and down stairs
- Practice good housekeeping – keep equipment (cords/leads/hoses) out of walkways
- If you are uncertain of the fall protection requirements, consult your supervisor, local occupational safety staff or the references below:
  - AFI 91-203 - Air Force Consolidated Occupational Safety Instruction
    - Chapter 13 - *Fall Protection*
    - Chapter 24 - *Aircraft Flight Line – Ground Operations and Activities*
  - 29 CFR 1910.66 - Powered Platforms, Manlifts, and Vehicle-Mounted Work Platforms
  - 29 CFR 1926.503 - Fall Protection